

THE LARK.

[Mary E. Knott in The Current.]
The lark's voice when he leaves the nest,
And where he sings the harvest sheaves
The cricket chirp the whole night long;
The morning of the chilly day,
Through budding clouds he sings and gray
And waives no more of mist and song.

But in a myriad lowly nests
Beneath a myriad plucking breasts
Through budding buds and twilight dew
Life out of shapeless void took form.
That voice still through shine and storm
Might sing the mother-song anew.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL'S DECORUM.

The Stairs Conventionality Enforced Upon
Our Cats and Dogs.
[London Spectator.]

Mr. J. B. Mill, in his essay on "Liberty," long ago warned us of the stupefying influence of custom upon human beings, and held that we ought to encourage eccentricities in each other, and to guard jealously the right to be eccentric, instead of insisting on reducing every one by the hard-and-fast protestant standard to a single dead-level of mediocrity. But, whatever our sins may be in this respect toward human beings, surely they are greater still toward the domestic animals. We reduce our horses, so far as possible, to the mechanical condition of locomotive engines—indeed, eccentric horses might involve very serious dangers to life and limb—our dogs to sentinels, which we drill to a social decorum as rigid as our own; while we regard the eccentricities of a cat with undignified horror, as the mere prelude to dangerous insanity.

There may be exceptions here and there. Sometimes you will find an old lady who will protect eccentricity in a parrot, a magpie, or a jay, as a bird that has a right to a certain freedom of movement in return for its entertaining attempts at conversation. But, on the whole, there is no sterner standard of conventionality than that which we enforce in our domestic animals. Pet dogs become perfect bigots in favor of the usual, and persecute any attempt to deviate from it on the part even of a more powerful and less favored colleague, as the inquisition persecuted heresy, or as the court of Russia persecuted nihilism.

There is nothing equal to the indignation of an indoor dog at any invasion of the privacy of the drawing-room by an outdoor dog, and nothing more melancholy than the servile apologies which the big dog will make to the little one, for even proposing to break through the animal etiquette of the house. The horror of the queen's chamberlain, when once an officer, presented himself at the levee in the proper court suit diversified by slippers, which he had forgotten to exchange for the regulation boots, was not so great as the horror of the terrier and the Pomeranian when a collie or a setter presents himself on the threshold of their mistress's sitting-room. We smother the genius of our dogs with our conventionalisms, and stifle the originality of our cats with luxurious bribes.

Health Fallacies.

[Lippincott's Magazine.]

A correspondent thinks that the health of the people would be brought up to a better condition if they were educated out of the following fallacies.

The idea that cold baths are healthy in winter and dangerous in mid-summer.

That rain water is more wholesome than hard water.

That bed-rooms must be heated in cold weather.

That the misery of overfasting scrubbing and soap-and-vapors is compensated by the comfort of the lucid intervals.

That a sick room must be hermetically closed.

That it pays to save foul air for the sake of its warmth.

That "draughts" are morbid agencies.

That catarrhs are due to low temperature.

That even in midsummer children must be sent to bed at sunset, when the air begins to be pleasant.

That an after-dinner nap can do any harm.

That the sanitary conditions of the air can be improved by the fœtor of carbolic acid.

That there is any benefit in swallowing jugfuls of nauseous sulphur water.

That rest after dinner can be shortened with impunity.

That outdoor recreation is a waste of time.

That athletic sports brutalize the character.

That a normal human being requires any other stimulant than exercise and fresh air.

That any plan of study can justify the custom of stunting children in sleep.

That the torpor of narcotism is preferable to insomnia.

That the suppression of harmless recreation will fail to beget vice and hypocrisies.

That stimulation is identical with invigoration.

That fashion has a right to enforce the wearing of woolen clothes in the dog days.

A Great Australian River.

[Toronto Globe.]

It is a common mistake to assume that Australia is a country destitute of large rivers. On the contrary, it possesses one of the longest water-courses in the world, viz., the Darling, which is navigable for 3,345 miles, placing it third in rank among the rivers of the world, estimated by their navigable length, and considerably above the Nile, navigable for 1,500 miles; the Danube, navigable for 1,700 miles; the Rhine, 600, and the Thames, navigable for only 188 miles.

Tender-Hearted Theology.

[Indianapolis Sentinel.]

"Mamma," said a little girl, "do all the wicked people go to the bad place?" "Yes, dear." "And all the good people go to heaven?" "Yes." "And are some people wicked than other people?" "Yes, I suppose they are." "Well, I think that the people who are not so very, very wicked ought to go to the bad place only in the winter time."

Our Oldest Railroad.

[Gett's Interview.]

"What are the ages of our oldest railroads?"
"Oh, well, you might ask me what were the oldest roads. The first road ever built in England the Romans built nearly 1,800 years ago. The next kind of roads put there were tramways, which began about the close of the eighteenth century. They were generally made of wooden rails. The first iron was put down on these tramways about the time the Americans were resisting taxation—say, 1767. By 1811 there were nearly 200 miles of these iron trams in Wales alone. Locomotive engines were first suggested in England about 1820. Then a passenger railroad was built in 1825, the cars drawn by horses.

The first railroad line of any note on the globe was from Liverpool to Manchester, chartered by parliament in 1825, and it offered a premium for a locomotive engine, and the premium was won by George Stephenson, whose engine ran thirty miles and back on her trial trip, making as high as thirty miles an hour, which is pretty good running now. That first railroad cost \$120,000 a mile. The same year the Baltimore & Ohio railroad had been laid for a few miles, and six miles had been put down of the railroad from Charleston to Georgia. The latter railroad James Edgar Thompson, afterward president of the Pennsylvania railroad, was the engineer of, and he was a Pennsylvanian.

The road from Liverpool to Manchester was finally opened with engines in 1825, and the duke of Wellington was a guest. This road was the pioneer of all railroads financially as well as materially. In 1835 it was opened to Birmingham and to London, and by 1850 the general British railroad system had been constructed. There were nearly 1,600 miles of railroad in England in 1841. The English spent \$800,000,000 in ten years to build railroads. The Americans had by 1855 nearly 34,000 miles of railroad. It is said that more gunpowder has been spent to build American railroads than was used in the whole war of the rebellion. The first big American tunnel was on the Pennsylvania railroad in the Allegheny mountains, and cost \$450,000. The Hoosac tunnel is about one mile and a half long."

Keeping a Scrap-Book.

[Chronicle "Undertone."]

I always take a look through a scrap-book when it is presented to me. I don't know anything that gives me an idea of the less obtrusive tastes of a person better than a scrap-book. Like a diary most people at various periods of their lives begin to keep a scrap-book. They go and examine all the stocks in town and generally end by buying one that is too big or too small. For a day or two they read with a pair of scissors handy. They have laid in a pot of gum and a brush. They clip what they don't want as a rule, to begin with, because after they have made up their minds to keep a scrap-book, they don't find any of the kind of paragraphs they used to want to cut out, and they must cut and paste something. They dive furiously at a paragraph that has no particular meaning, that is quite foreign to their taste. But they must start in.

For a week or so they are moderately faithful to that scrap-book. Then they begin to cut things and lay them aside to be pasted when convenient. They succeed in filling half a dozen pages. Then the heap of cuttings grows larger and larger until it is in the way, and some day in a fit of semi-dread, semi-anger, they throw the bundle into the fire. Years after they find odd clippings in unused drawers and unfamiliar corners, and they puzzle and puzzle as to what they cut them out for.

The Laws of Physiology.

[Exchange.]

I used to know a very excellent lady who for several years was an active worker among the poor. She became lame at length, and was confined at home.

A religious friend wrote a notice of the lady's enforced abandonment of benevolent activities. One sentence was this:

"God has thus crippled her that she might have leisure for holy reflections."

Seeing the notice, I called upon the lady, and examined her feet. It was a case of much walking with badly-fitting shoes. If God's plan was to cripple this good woman that she might have time for holy contemplations, how can you explain the fact that a poor little Irish corn doctor, in one little hour, set her on her feet again?

Who instituted the laws of physiology? People talk as if these were not God's laws. And are they not just as binding and sacred as "Thou shalt not swear?"

Phosphorescence of the Diamond.

[Chicago Herald.]

It has long been laid down as an axiom in diamond lore that the precious stone was capable of absorbing rays of light and afterward emitting them in the dark. While this was abundantly proved by theory it has been difficult to put it to an actual test, for naturally the great diamonds of the world are not accessible for the purpose. Recently, however, a private person, the fortunate possessor of a stone of ninety-two karats, valued at \$300,000, lent his diamond for scientific investigation. These have been very satisfactorily conducted, and the phosphorescent qualities of the stone may be regarded as proved. The stone was exposed for an hour to the direct action of the sun's rays, and then removed to a dark room. For more than twenty minutes it emitted light strong enough to make a sheet of white paper glow near it perfectly visible.

Paris' Statue of Gambetta.

[Inter Ocean.]

The accepted design, by MM. Aube and Boileau, for the Paris statue of Gambetta shows a quadrangular pyramid surmounted by a winged lion bearing upon its back a figure of the Republic. At the base Gambetta stands, calling France to arms and decreeing "War to the knife." At the other sides are figures of Union, Strength, and Truth; electoral urns are at the corners, and quotations from Gambetta's most noted speeches are graven on the faces of the pile.

The Current: Indian reservation.

[Indianapolis Sentinel.]

The right to try it again in the spring.

MORNING ON BROADWAY.

The Beginning of "Business"—Tread of the Thousands.
[Texas Siftings.]

Six o'clock of a bright spring morning, on the greatest thoroughfare of the greatest city of the greatest nation in the world.

Six o'clock; and the streets, which for the past three hours have been quite deserted, are beginning to be dotted with black figures, all moving down toward the great center of trade and commerce. There are also a few people, with wrinkled coats, hair like bewildered haystacks, bloodshot eyes, and broken hats, making the best of their way homeward from the gambling-houses, opium-dens, dives, and infamous resorts where they have spent the night. How their weary and battered aspect contrasts with that of the laborers, the mechanics, and the trim, bright work-girls who, after a night of sound, dreamless sleep, and a good breakfast, are marching cheerfully to their daily toil. So think the dissipated ones as they cast furtive, shamefaced glances from their heavy eyes at the fresh young girls who stop so lightly past them on their way to factory or store. So, too, think the stalwart policemen of the Broadway squad, who know many of the revelers, and eye them with little favor as they pass; and who exchange cheery morning greetings with the workmen and pretty girls hurrying by.

Half-past six; and the milk-carts are clattering along, the milkmen ringing bells and uttering unearthly yaws, bringing sleepy janitors to the doors of the great business houses to take in the matutinal fluid. Then the janitors, or their aides-de-camp, come out again to shake and beat door-mats, sending forth clouds of dust upon the passer-by, and drawing shrill remonstrances from the neatly-attired girls. The janitors only beat the harder, for is this not a free country, and what have common courtesy or consideration for others got to do with business? The loemen now have nearly completed their rounds and have left a block of solid water at the door of nearly every store; always taking care to put it in the sunniest corner or over the grating through which the engine that runs the elevator sends its heated breath. This is also business.

Seven o'clock. The heavy, awkward, lumbering stages are bumping and jolting along the uneven pavement; now descending, as it were, into the trough of the sea; now riding on the top of a stony billow; like a ship in a storm. The stores are beginning to be opened. Young clerks are struggling with padlocks and stiff hasps; iron roller-blinds and shutters are going up with deafening crash; show-cases are wheeled out in front of the retail houses; heads of departments are arriving, clothed in majestic dignity and shiny hats; and the day begins. The men who had gathered round the doors of the wine and sample rooms, some of whom had waited more than half an hour for the opening of the swinging doors, are coming out now, wiping their lips, and looking somewhat fresher for their morning cocktail. It is the beginning of the end. Before a year has passed, one-fourth of these early birds will have lost their nests; one-fourth will have their brilliant feathers stained and ruffled and bedraggled; and within ten years from now the whole number, except perhaps a wretched 1 per cent, who saw their coming doom in time, and steadily put down the brakes, will have joined the great army of the tramps, or found a home in the work-house, the insane asylum, or the grave. Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die.

Eight o'clock; and the pedestrians pound down-town are thick as leaves. However pressing the business, or great the hurry of a New Yorker may be, he can always find time to stop and ascertain the cause of a crowd with the policeman's helmet looming up in the center of it. Such a crowd is now gathered at the corner of Canal street, and we, with many others, press forward to find out what it is all about. One of the most miserable examples of humanity that we have ever seen is lying on the sidewalk. Utterly dirty and ragged, with glassy eyes, and with just sufficient flesh beneath the skin on his gaunt face to keep the sharp cheek-bones from starting through, he presents a spectacle of misery not soon to be forgotten. He is not able to walk, and the ambulance, which has been sent for, now comes clanging down the street.

Nine o'clock. Business is in full swing and the noise on Broadway is deafening. The traffic on the great thoroughfare is not quite so dense as it will be later on; but there will be more buying and selling done, and a greater number of people will travel, between Fourteenth street and the Battery from now up to 13 o'clock, than on the main streets of any six county towns in the Union within a week.

And Broadway, roaring, bustling Broadway, echoes the tread of countless thousands bent on petty things, and—like the millions who have trod those flags in generations past—all hastening to the grave!

The Worth of Life.

[N. Roman to Paris School Children.]

"You are starting on your career with a blind belief in the value and delight of that which lies before you. Wiser men than I will warn you that what your youthful ardor assumes is an illusion. For my part, I confess that it is not my feeling. The life which lies before you as an unknown and limitless region, I have traversed. I no longer look forward to anything very unexpected.

"That limit which seems to you so distant, I see close at hand. Well, with my hand on my heart, I can tell you that this life, which it has become the fashion to malign, has been found by me good, noble and worthy of the zest that you feel for it. Your only illusion is to think it long. No; it is very short.

"There is but one basis of a happy life, the search for goodness and truth. 'You will see the twentieth century.' That is, I confess, a privilege which I envy you. You will see things of which we have no conception."

Extirpation of the Whitefish.

The much-prized whitefish of the great lakes is threatened with extermination, notwithstanding the lakes are freely stocked with young fish every year. The trouble is due to the use of trap nets, which destroy great numbers of fish before they are half grown.

DIFFERENT CHURCHES IN AMERICA.

The Relative Increase in the Leading Denominations Since 1850.
[Baltimore Star, New York Sun.]

The presence in Baltimore in attendance at the plenary council of the Catholic prelates and dignitaries and the interchange of opinions resulting from their several meetings, have served to direct particular attention to a table which has just made its appearance. It has been customary heretofore to gauge the growth of religious organizations in this country by comparative figures at each new reckoning. But as the whole population is always increasing rapidly, the various denominations have thus always been able to show a healthy gain in numbers. Since the opening of the council an attempt has been made by careful students and statisticians to show these results relatively for the better guidance of the prelates. The table which has been prepared arrives at some conclusions little less than startling.

By the census of 1880 the population of the United States was 31,445,090. The present population is now estimated at 35,000,000. The gain in twenty-five years has been, therefore, 3,555,000, or at the rate of 75 per cent.

In 1860, according to estimates the accuracy of which was then universally acknowledged, there were 8,000,000 Methodists in this country. There were then, as they are now, the strongest religious body, numerically. Since 1860 the total has grown to 15,000,000, which is an increase of 75 per cent; keeping pace exactly with the increase in population.

The number of affiliates of the various Baptist churches was, in 1860, 8,000,000. To-day it is 12,000,000. The increase in twenty-five years is, therefore, 40 per cent, a gain in absolute ratio, but a falling off when considered relatively.

The Presbyterians numbered, in 1860, 3,600,000. Now they number 5,500,000, an increase in twenty-five years of 53 per cent.

The Lutherans, who have been materially benefited by constant and increasing emigration from Germany, Sweden, Holland and Norway, have grown from 1,350,000 in 1860, to 2,000,000 in 1884, or at the rate of 60 per cent.

The Congregationalists have declined relatively very much. The old spirit of the New England pilgrims seems to be dying out among them. In twenty-five years they have advanced but 27 per cent.—that is, from 1,415,000 in 1860 to 1,800,000 at present. On the other hand, the various Reformed churches—Dutch, German and Evangelical—show an increase of nearly 50 per cent, from 810,000 in 1860 to 1,200,000 to-day.

The Episcopalians show a fair increase in numbers, yet one relatively below the average. Their percentage of gain is 33 1/2 per cent, in twenty-five years, bringing up the total from 900,000 to 1,200,000.

The Hebrews—counting together those who are orthodox and those who are merely nominal—have increased from 800,000 in 1860 to 700,000 in 1884, a full 100 per cent of gain.

The Friends, or Quakers, show an absolute as well as relative decline. They have fallen off 60 per cent., from 220,000 in 1860 to 150,000 in 1884.

The denomination of Christians who are numerous in Kentucky, southern Indiana, southern Illinois, and Missouri number 800,000, against 800,000 in 1860, an absolute gain of 60 per cent., yet a falling off relatively of 15.

But the most surprising feature of the calculations just completed is the growth of the Catholics. In 1860 they numbered in the United States 3,175,000. Now there are 9,500,000. This is a gain of 300 per cent, in twenty-five years. Should the same ratio of increase continue to be preserved, they would number fifteen years hence 25,000,000.

The difficulties encountered in arriving at even an approximate result in religious statistics are many. In the United States, as in England and Scotland, the doctrinal views of individuals form an item in the census enumeration. The generally accepted plan for arriving at a result is as follows: The church accommodations, which are gathered officially, are multiplied by a figure representing in that denomination the relation of church-goes to the whole number of its adherents. Then another table is made of the number of enrolled members or communicants. These are multiplied usually by five, for the full population. Finally, a third table is constructed from the church records of baptisms and marriages and the official record of deaths. Those tables are compared in parallel columns, and an estimate is made from the three. The substantial accuracy, not alone of these tables, but of the net results deduced from their comparison, is not questioned, though, of course, the circumstances of their compilation do not preclude the possibility of occasional errors.

It is the opinion of many of the Catholic clergy assembled here that in default of American universities of very high scholarship, Catholic preachers have to contend in their missionary labors with a difficulty not met with in Europe. This subject is one certain to be neglected by the plenary council. Bishop Cross, of Savannah, has sought to interest his colleagues in a plan for more efficient pastoral efforts among the colored population of the southern states, wherein (outside of Louisiana and Texas) the Catholic church has at present, confessedly, very little foothold. It is to be noted that the churches of all creeds and denominations in the United States contain accommodations for 27,500,000 persons, or just half of the whole population of 55,000,000.

A Colored Inventor.

[Exchange.]

Among the exhibitors at the forthcoming exposition at New Orleans, will be the Hon. A. P. Ashbourne (colored), an ex-member of the Virginia legislature. He will exhibit no fewer than twenty-two of his inventions on which he has secured patents, and he has thirty-eight others not yet patented. His colored brethren are naturally very proud of him. He was the only colored patentee who exhibited at the great exhibition of 1876.

Boston Globe: Man is man's greatest study, and how to get ahead of him his most persistent.

IN THE HOLY LAND.

Jerusalem, the Mecca of Numerous Religious Cranks.
[Jerusalem Cor. New Orleans Times-Democrat.]

One would naturally expect to find plenty of religious rick-rack in Jerusalem to-day, for, while the city is the object of reverential regard on the part of Christians generally, it is at the same time an all-potent magnet to attract hither the world's religious extremists. All the infallible cranks on the subject of biblical interpretation are here, and not a few of them have brought their sisters and their cousins and their aunts.

It is an appalling fact that nine-tenths of these "peculiar people" hail from the good land where Uncle Sam and the bald-headed bird of liberty are said to reside. American boys the reputation of raising about as many religions to the square inch as any country on the face of the earth, and I think Jerusalem may be regarded to-day as the index rerum of these diverse theories. Usually believers come here in cliques. Often there will be an organization left behind with whom those enthusiasts communicate regularly, in the vague hope that some day the whole lump of believers at home may be leavened with the grotesque religious views cherished by the little band over here. Each clique considers that it has arrived at the marrow of religious truth, and finds it impossible to compromise even in non-essential matters with any other clique. By thus living in their own strange rut the members succeed in harmonizing everything in the Bible. Indeed, when you approach them in argument they will protest:

"Ah! but why not look at things in our way? Take any other view, and the Bible is a great battle-ground of contradictory and meaningless statements. Just adopt our view, and everything becomes consistent. It is then so simple that a wayfaring man, though he be a fool, need not err."

And you don't want to enter the lists for a verbal discussion until you have fully counted your host. Even the most visionary of these theorists has the Bible at his tongue's end, can quote passages in substantiation of his strange ideas until your brain reels, and will dispose of every objection that you can put forward as glibly as though he were reciting the "rule of three."

It is singular how these people can warp and twist the sacred word. All claim the Bible as their authority, and yet the views cherished are radically hostile to each other in many instances.

Take, for instance, the question of the immortality of the soul. There are all shades of diverse belief here in this important fundamental matter. Some are such extreme immaterialists that as they see your face for the first time they are liable to say:

"Ah, haven't we met some place before, when we were with God in the ages prior to the creation? Your features are strikingly familiar to me."

While others, not to be distanced in originality, will go to the opposite extreme, and maintain that there is no immortality, past, present, or future, for anybody, good, bad, or indifferent. Every intermediate ground has its coteries of champions also. In the midst of this dreary waste of sickening religious mania there is one tolerably bright spot.

There is a colony of fourteen Americans, two English persons, and three or four natives, all living in a large, comfortable mansion in the Mohammedan quarter of the city, just inside of the Damascus gate. These people are waiting for a second coming, but they are cultivated, refined people—people whom it is an intellectual pleasure to meet.

In living they come as near to the perfect life as it is possible for mortals to come. They are not obtrusive by their views; they are highly educated; they are nearly all of them accomplished musicians; they are constantly doing good works.

The Doll-Modeler's Secret.

[Harper's Bazar.]

One day a celebrated modeler discovered a child with a countenance more beautiful than any he had ever beheld. He spoke kindly to it, and loaded it with sweetmeats and caresses. Then, in a moment of temptation which he could not resist, he bore it away to his studio, where he delineated every feature of its face, and saw so many suggestions for other exquisite models by means of slight modifications that he secretly kept it. The dolls modeled therefrom were sent all over the world, and increased his wealth and position far above the manufacturers of his kind. When he was done with the child he took its life, fearing the consequences of abduction.

Meanwhile the stricken parents had not been idle. Alarm was sounded through the country, and falling in this way to secure the child, detectives were set at work. One day a German detective crossed over into Paris, and went into a toy shop where beautiful children were employed as pages. He did not find the child, but on the shelves he saw its image stamped with variations on 1,000 dolls. The secret was found out at last.

The Wages of Servants.

[Progress.]

In 1870 there were 1,075,000 domestic servants in the country; at this time there are undoubtedly at least 1,300,000. Most of them have no votes, but they have fathers, brothers, and other relatives to whom their earnings are of importance.

If we suppose that there are now 1,300,000 employed in this country, their wages are about \$216,000,000. At the English rate of wages these same people would earn about \$113,000,000; at the French rate of wages these same people would earn about \$90,000,000.

The Quartette He Liked.

[Good Cheer.]

An honest farmer was invited to attend a party at the village doctor's one evening, where there was music, both vocal and instrumental. On the following morning he met one of the guests, who said: "Well, farmer, how did you enjoy yourself last night? Were not the quartettes excellent?" "Why, really, sir, I can't say," said he, "for I didn't taste 'em; but the pork chops were the finest I ever ate."

The loss of registered letters last year amounted to only one out of every 21,795.

RACING IN DONGOLA.

Sixty Camels on the Track—A Runaway—Donkey Race.
[Dongola Cor. London Standard.]

Last October the first British race meeting ever held in Dongola, or, for that matter, in the Soudan, took place a mile to the north of the town. The course was marked out alongside the telegraphic line, and the meeting was announced as under the patronage of Sir Herbert Stewart, K. C. B., as officer commanding, and the mudir of Dongola. The track consisted of grassy turf, with intervals of sandy mold, and taken altogether it was rough going. Everybody who could be spared from garrison duty turned out, and the band of the Royal Sussex regiment played during the intervals. The first event was announced for 3:30 p. m., but a few minutes grace was given to allow the mudir to arrive. Oriental like, though he had sent express to intimate he was on his way, he did not turn up till after three events had been got over, and three-quarters of an hour late.

Late as he was, and as most of the natives were also, in getting to the course, they one and all, Turks, Arabs, Egyptians, Nubians, and wild Bedouins, continuously exhibited the wildest interest and delight in the race. In the 400-yard camel race the men of the mounted infantry turned out fully equipped for the field. Their camels knelt down opposite the starting post, and at the word "go" the men had to addle up, seize their rifles, mount, and "off." It took the first man exactly forty-five seconds to do all this and get his camel under way, but then a girl almost immediately became undone. The next man, or rather next three, for that number rose together, took fifty-five seconds, and the lot were "off" in 1 minute 15 seconds. There was a good deal of floating in the air and "flying angel" maneuvering done by the riders, through the wild paces of the camels, and several came to grief before getting back to the winning post.

The race of the day was unquestionably the Press race, for which there were nearly sixty starters. English officers, soldiers, Nubians, Bedouins, and Arabs, all competed. They were sent from the winning post to the half-mile post, turn around and home. At last they were off, and so were many of the riders, as the huge brutes trundled along, urged by cries and cuts from kourbashas. A charge from such camelry would be positively irresistible. A stone wall even could not withstand their rush. My camel was in the running, and I had put an Arab up to ride him bare-backed. That brute since I bought him has been daily discovering to me new eccentricities of camel life. Off he went, not at the long swinging trot peculiar to camels, but positively at a gallop, jumping like a stepple-chaser. Everybody laughed as he leaped the string by scores of yards. In a minute his nose was turned westward and downward, and I went thundering after on horseback, thinking my Arab was trying camel-lifting. Getting near the post I turned him with a cut, and my bold Bedouin slipped off, with a horrified expression on his face, vowing the beast had tried to carry him to the mountains. I got them back to the post, but I am bound to say the camel when stopped had a ferocious look in his eyes, and that as the man flew about in the air at every bound no one exhibited more terror than the son of the desert did at his mount.

From the moment when you get on a camel's back you feel the varied creature of circumlocution, your relative positions are changed, and the camel is absolute master whenever stupidity or temper induces him to act on his promptings regardless of the string in his nose. The donkey race gave rise to a great deal of merriment, the natives from the mudir down screaming with laughter. There were the customary quotas of obstreperous donkeys and lively donkeys. Lord Airle led by fifty yards till close to the post, when his donkey stopped to engage in an altercation with a dog that ran on the course, and nothing could induce him to proceed till the cur was disposed of, which resulted in his coming in second. The mudir has signified his intention of giving 25 pound sterling in prizes every Wednesday hereafter, on which day the meeting is to be held, while the troops remain in Dongola. Hard